



*"Dedicated to the Conservation of  
Wisconsin's Waterfowl and Wetland Resources"*

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March 7, 2006  
Don Hultman  
Refuge Manager  
Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge  
51 E. Fourth St Room 101  
Winona, Minnesota 55987

Dear Don,

I first must say that I am truly sorry that the Upper Miss CCP has taken the turn that it has. No one benefits when people that should be united are at such odds.

The USFWS in Wisconsin, has over the past several years forged a strong partnership across Wisconsin. The partnership was founded and strengthened by true efforts to embrace the public, their concerns and passion for our natural resources. The key to this success has been to put differences aside and explore our similarities. We find time after time that we agree on far more things than we disagree and directing our energy and efforts towards a common goal results not in controversy but in productive partnership. In these cases the resource is always the winner.

The Upper Miss is just such a situation. You, your staff and the citizens of Wisconsin so value this resource that they are willing to go to great ends to protect it.

It is time for all parties to recognize our similarities and come to the table in a new spirit of cooperation. I implore you to take a leadership role in making this happen. This does not mean taking public comment, holding large public meetings or trying to meet the requirements of some government mandate. This means choosing a path that will build lasting relationships, and form working partnerships that unify us through our common belief in the value of our natural resources. The benefit to the resource will be unprecedented if all this energy can be channeled towards positive change.

We will do anything we can to facilitate this process.

Sincerely,

Jeff Nania  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Waterfowl Association